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of our native bees, wasps, flies, beetles, butterflies and moths, bugs and grasshoppers and Neuroptera, an immense impetus would be given to the study of entomology. As it is, we fear that the twentieth century will be far advanced before these desirable works will be published.

ROBINSON'S FLORA OF ESSEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.¹—Essex county enjoys the distinction of being at an early date one of the botanical centers of the United States, as it was the home of Dr. Manasseh Cutler, Dr. George Osgood, Dr. Andrew Nichols, Dr. Charles Pickering and, more particularly, of William Oakes, to whose memory the genus *Oakesia* has recently been dedicated by Mr. Sereno Watson. The names also of Rev. John L. Russell and Mr. Geo. D. Phippen, Mr. S. B. Buttick, and of others, should be mentioned; while Mr. C. M. Tracy, in his *Flora of Lynn*, was the first to publish a list of Essex county plants. These and other facts are related by our author in the historical introduction to his *Flora*. It appears that originally almost the only extended collection of dried Essex county plants were those of the late Mr. Oakes, but the list before us is based upon the herbarium recently collected by Mr. Robinson, and nearly all of which is represented in that of the Peabody Academy of Science, at Salem. The notes under the specific names are quite full and interesting as regards the flowering plants; the enumeration of mosses and thallophytes, in which the author was assisted by other botanists, is less complete. We would like to have seen a more detailed bibliography, *i. e.*, the titles given in full, with complete references to articles by the earlier botanists, of which the titles and dates are not always given; only the name, without the date, of the magazines or transactions containing them. But this is a minor blemish. The undertaking has been well carried out, the volume is a handsome one, and it will be a *vade mecum* to the herbalist of eastern New England.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE ON ANALYSES OF INKS.—A committee of the Franklin Institute was appointed by a vote of that body at its November meeting, for the purpose of examining into the truth of certain statements made and the value of certain tests proposed for the detection of iron in inks. The object of the appointment was stated to be that during the interval of time which should elapse between now and the legal remedy of the expert abuse in court, an extra judicial court might criticise all statements professing to be scientific and the fear of reversal before their peers might be an additional security for the value of expert statements.

The committee resolves "that inasmuch as the methods for the "detection of iron in inks and for the identification of inks are "described in numerous and well-known works on chemistry; "and inasmuch as the chemical expert testimony in the Whittaker

¹ The *Flora of Essex county, Massachusetts*. JOHN ROBINSON, Salem. Essex Institute, 1880. 8° pp. 200.